

LIBRARY

E27 NOV 42
CR 27

Annual Report

ON THE

*Sanitary and Housing
Conditions*

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1941.



L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESTON :

Printed by W. Watson & Co., Ltd., Corporation Street,
1942.

Annual Report

ON THE

*Sanitary and Housing
Conditions*

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1941.




L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESTON :

Printed by W. Watson & Co., Ltd., Corporation Street,
1942.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29537782>

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

Sanitary and Housing Conditions

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1941.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my second Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's request, this report is of an interim nature, and in the main is confined to vital statistics.

I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesy and co-operation which I have invariably received from the Council and my fellow officials.

AREA.—The Area of the Kirkham Urban District is 940 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population of the Kirkham Urban District for the year 1941, for the purposes of statistics, is 4,557. The population (Census 1921) was 3,892. The 1931 Census gave the population as 4,031.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) was 1,064, and 1,215 at the end of 1941, according to the rate books.

THE RATEABLE VALUE of the District was £28,252, and the sum represented by a penny rate £114.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.—The Live Births reported by the local Registrar as occurring in the Urban District of Kirkham during the year ended 31st December, 1941, numbered 82 (males 43, females 39).

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths registered locally as belonging to the Kirkham Urban District during the year 1941 was 65 (males 37, females 28).

CAUSES OF DEATH.

PHTHISIS.—5 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system (3 males, 2 females).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of children under 1 year of age numbered 5 (males 3, females 2).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, viz.:—

- (1) The Fylde Hospital at Moss Side, near Lytham, for Infectious Diseases.
- (2) Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital at Elswick for Smallpox.
- (3) Elswick Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (4) Preston Royal Infirmary for serious accidents and surgical operations.

The Fylde Union Institution at Wesham, adjoining Kirkham, has also an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of Maternity when required. The accommodation is very good, and is not only used by this district, but also by the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Poulton, and Lytham-St. Annes.

With regard to hospital administration, Committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the area.

POOR-LAW INSTITUTIONS.—As mentioned above, use is made of the Fylde Union Institution at Derby Road, Wesham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious Cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: Private Ambulances may be hired from Preston or Blackpool or locally, for those who can afford to pay the cost. The provision of such service for necessitous cases is undertaken by the Council by arrangement with a private motor ambulance hirer.

The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the local authority was £477 4s. 2d. for the year ended 31st March, 1941.

The cubicle block extension to the Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital is now in use and proving very helpful.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council, and is situated in Mellor Road. A weekly session is held each Thursday at 2-0 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council, who, under the new scheme, is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme of the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

For nursing in the home there is the Kirkham and Wesham District Nursing Association. This is maintained by subscriptions from members of the Association, and employs one Nurse, who attends cases of illness, with the exception of infectious cases, in their homes in the districts of Kirkham and Wesham. No co-ordination exists with the local authority, and no financial obligations fall upon the authority. Midwifery cases are not undertaken by the Association.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organisms has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. Ten examinations were carried out during 1941.

Specimens of sputum are sent to Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There have been no new local Acts or adoption of any Acts during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of school children under the Education Act is carried out in all Schools in the district by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1941.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases call for no comment apart from a smart outbreak of Measles in the spring, amounting to 75 cases, most of which were in the 5 to 10 year age group. One case proved fatal.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

A campaign against Diphtheria was launched in the summer. The scheme was organised by the Public Health Department, and having received the approval of the Lancashire County Council became eligible for a grant of 50 per cent. from the County Council. Advantage was taken of the free provision by the Ministry of Health of immunising material; alum precipitated toxoid was used in doses of .1 to .3 c.c. at intervals of one month.

The injections were given by the local medical practitioners, who were paid at the rate of 1½ guineas per session of approximately 50 children.

Approximate child population : 950.

Number of children immunised :—

(1) Pre-School Age	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
(2) School Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	511
							<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	653
							<hr/>

Thus nearly 70 per cent .of the available children were immunised. There were no serious reactions, and the number of minor reactions was negligible.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE
YEAR 1941.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	7	..
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal pyrexia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute polio-encephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria contracted abroad .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
do. In this country .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.,—Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles and German Measles...	75	1	3	3	7	11	43	4	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..
Whooping Cough	7	1	1	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other disease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	93	2	4	4	9	12	44	10	3	2	3	..	..	1	9	..

TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...
20—25 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45—55 .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	2	2	2	2	3	2	0	0

All the deaths from Tuberculosis were of cases who had previously been notified.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district as a rule is good, and there has been no need to take action in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925:

There has been no action taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Medical Officer. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium the dwellings are always disinfected.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.



Kirkham *Urban Sanitary Authority.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Thirtieth Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1941.

During the year 36 notices and letters have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary defects.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Particulars of any extension of improvement during the year :—

The Scavenging of the whole of the District is carried out weekly.

The work is done by the Council's men and motor under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Average weekly number of loads of refuse dealt with at the Destructor : 22.

No. of Privy closets :—	Conversions during 1941.	During 5 years 1936-1940.
To fresh-water closets	—	...
To pail closets	—	...

56

No. of Pail closets :—

To fresh-water closets ... ..	—	...	...	10
To waste-water closets ... ..	—	...	...	—

No. of Waste-water closets :—

To fresh-water closets	—	2
-------------------------------	---	-----	-----	---

No. of houses at which movable
ashbins have been substituted
for fixed receptacles

—	86
---	-----	-----	----

Is there any definite policy at the present time for
abolishing privy middens and pail closets ? No.

Does the Council contribute towards the cost of
conversion ? No.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new
property ? All fresh-water closets.

The following are the number of closets and ash-pits :—

Fresh-water closets	1223
Waste-water closets	21
Privy closets	19
Privy ashpits	14
Dry ashpits	8
Ashbins in town	985

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through
the district.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.—The construction of the
new sewerage tanks for Kirkham and Wesham has been completed.
These consist of two Detritus tanks, 6 settling tanks, and 14 sludge
beds, together with the necessary manholes.

The construction of two lengths of 30-inch sewer on concrete
(1) to the new tanks, and (2) from new tanks to outlet.

A defective length of sewer in the Carrs, Kirkham, has been replaced by the construction of two new manholes and 367 yards of 18-inch sewer laid on concrete.

No. of houses connected direct to sewer	1176
„ „ „ to septic tanks	34
Estimated No. of houses on the water-carriage system	1181

WATER SUPPLY is good and ample, and is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water mains have been flushed by the Fylde Water Board's workmen at different times.

All the houses in the town are supplied with Fylde water, except two bungalows, which are supplied from a well.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

No. of disinfections after death or removal of tuberculosis cases	3
„ „ houses disinfected	22
„ „ Schools disinfected	4
„ „ Library and other School books disinfected	85

All cases are visited upon receipt of notification. After the death or removal of patients for either hospital or sanatorium treatment the rooms are thoroughly disinfected with formalin.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected regularly and found satisfactory. All the Schools are supplied with Fylde water, and have fresh-water closets connected direct to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

No. on Register : 1. What is its condition ? Fairly satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No. of premises : None. Type of offensive trade : None.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
FACTORIES with Mechanical power	53	2	...
FACTORIES without Mechanical power	38	...	...
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)...	...	...	...
Total	91	2	...

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient .....	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	..	...
Not separate for sexes .....	...	...	...	...
Other Offences	2	2	...	...
Total	4	4	...	...

Number of Factory and Works chimneys in the District...	7
Number of black smoke observations	9
Time limit allowed—Minutes per hour	6

LIVESTOCK (RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTERING)
(No. 2) ORDER, 1940.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ORDER WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION
JANUARY 15TH, 1940.

None of the three Registered Slaughter-houses has been used during the year.

All animals destined for food have been killed outside the district and the meat brought in and allocated to our butchers.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

28 lbs. Beef.	58 lbs. side of Bacon.
6 lbs. tin Boiled Beef.	15 lbs. Butter.
6 lbs. tin Brawn.	40 14½-oz. tins of Milk.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCANS).

Particulars of any shellfish beds or layings which may be in the district.

None in District.

MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, the Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1936, there are 8 Registered producers and retailers of milk, and 3 Registered retailers only. 103 inspections have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a clean, sanitary condition.

All the farms are supplied with Fylde water.

Number of Registered Cheese Factories	1
„ „ Registered Cowkeepers, including Dairy Farms ...	8
„ „ Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers)	3
„ „ Licences issued to Dealers in respect of Tuberculin Tested	3
Approximate number of Dairy Cows in district	106

Part of the milk supply is brought in by farmers from the surrounding districts.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

(a) Shops Act, 1934.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936.

No action necessary.

CAMPING SITES.—None in District.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. SANITARY INSPECTION.

Number of Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	362
„ „ Defects or Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ Preliminary Notices served by Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
„ „ Statutory Notices served by Order of Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Nuisances remedied...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ Drains opened out and defects rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ Defective roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Houses repaired inside	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Defective w.c. basins and cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

RAG FLOCKS ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

Number of premises in district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold :—

Number of inspections.	Number of samples taken.
Results :	None in District.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	...	...	...	...	None
Number of houses on Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	1215

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.: OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	1
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	8
(b) (1)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (2)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded, after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... None	

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:—

Give particulars of any action taken during 1941 1
 Methods employed for the eradication of bed bugs: Fumigation with Hydo Cyanide.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total, including numbers given separately under (b)... None	
I.	By the Local Authority	None
II.	By other bodies or persons	None
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
I.	By the Local Authority included under	
	(a) I. above	None
II.	By other bodies or persons included under	
	(a) above	None

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The general housing conditions are good, mostly working-class houses of both parlour and non-parlour type.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district None

Comment on the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review :—

No great change.

2.—HOUSING SCHEMES. Particulars of any housing schemes in hand or completed during 1941 None

3.—OVERCROWDING. Comment briefly on the position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area :—

One case of overcrowding has been remedied.

4.—CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT AREAS.—Give particulars of any action taken during 1941 None

Notable sanitary improvements during 1941 None

I am, yours obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

